

REMARKS

In the Specification

5 Office Action objects the specification because the Summary is missing. Specification has been amended with a Summary. It is believed that the specification meets the requirements as to remove the bases for the objection to it.

Claims Objections Based on Informalities

10 Office action objects claims 3, 6, 7, 14, and 15 because of informalities. Claims are amended to overcome the objections.

Pointing out and distinctly claim the invention

Claim 6 has been amended to meet the requirements.

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Pointing out and distinctly claim the invention

Claims 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject of matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 13 has been amended to meet the requirements.

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Deletion of language from Page 9

The language deleted from Page 9, line, line 29-to page 10, line 5 does not relate to the presently claimed subject matter. As such, deletion of such language does not add new matter to the application.

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Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1, and dependent claims 5, 18, 19 and 20 were rejected as being anticipated by Sutcliffe. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to more fully distinguish over Sutcliffe.

30 Various amendments were made to Claim 1 to clearly clarify terms in the claim, while not narrowing the scope of the claim.

Stationary Geographic Location Information vs Variable Location Information

Sutcliffe's invention describes a "Method and Apparatus for Matching Registered Profiles" by using stationary computers. Location information is entered in a stationary form as "address, city, state, zip code or country " (Col. 6, lines 44-49) or "geographic latitude and geographic longitude" (Col. 7, lines 5-6) with other stationary parameters as "gender, religion, or birthday" (Col. 6, lines 57-66). Even if the location of the computer or the user would change, the location information would remain the same as entered like does the parameters as gender, religion or birthday.

Claim 1 recites "at least one of said demand-side geographic location information and said supply-side geographic location information being updated automatically in real time from a geographic location information system." This can be done from a global positioning system (GPS), for instance.

In contrast, Sutcliffe's invention describes a search engine where profiles are entered for to be searched any time, even at the time the party is not available to be contacted. Sometimes getting a response for a message can take several days, and sometimes messages will never be responded to.

Sutcliffe has 60 search criteria, geographic location being given no more importance than other criteria data of the searcher or characteristic data of the publisher. As a matter of fact, in Sutcliffe's invention the location does not need to be published or searched at all. Present disclosed invention is based on essential variable geographical location information.

Sutcliffe's invention is restricted to a stationary location having a non-mobile landline wire-connection between the client computer and a host server. Even if the user would be able to carry the landline, wire-connected client computer to an other location, the computer would not automatically update the geographic location information for at least three reasons: 1) Sutcliffe' location is entered manually, and there is no need in the disclosed system to automatically update location information, 2) it would not have a wireless connection to a host server since Sutcliffe does not suggest mobile phone or computer, and 3) it would not use a geographic location information system, since Sutcliffe does not suggest such a positioning system.

Because Sutcliffe fails to teach or suggest the automatic updating of geographic location information in real time as recited in Claim 1, the rejection of Claim 1 over Sutcliffe should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has additionally been amended to point out that the contact means for each supply client computer and for each demand client is “current.” Thus, present invention describes a realtime search engine based on geographic location information of both, demand and supply, where both demand and supply clients are available in real time, actively looking for contact.

Significant improvements over Sutcliffe are achieved, since the purpose of the claimed invention is to allow immediate contact to be made between suppliers and demanders. For this additional reason, Claim 1 should be held patentable over the prior art.

Dependent Claims Patentably Distinguish over Applied Art

Since Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art (e.g., Sutcliffe), Claims 2-20 that depend from Claim 1 even more forcefully distinguish over the prior art. This is because they recite further novel features of the invention. The dependent claims are discussed in connection with the rejections of those claims, as follows.

Claims 2-4

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Sutcliffe in view of Chou, US Patent #6,327,533. As mentioned above, amended Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art (e.g. Sutcliffe). Chou does not remedy the deficiencies of Sutcliffe.

Chou describes a “Method and Apparatus for Continuously Locating an Object” anywhere in the world where “authorized clients may log on to the central processing station to view object or multiple objects. The objects Chou monitors are already known to the user, since Chou requires that “Client enters the identification number for all the objects for which tracking is desired” (Abstract). Chou’s invention collects initial data indicating a location of an object and inertial data to compute new position data at the object and store position data at the object in a data repository i.e. object history file (Claims 1 and 2, Col. 14, lines 15-29). Chou’s invention tells where the object is or where it was at certain time ago and calculates traveling time between two locations, but does not have any other further operative function relating to the presently claimed invention.

In particular, Chou's method does not enable a supplier to find a previously unknown demander, nor a demander to find a previously unknown supplier. As such, Chou's method fails to suggest the invention of Claims 2-4. For this additional reason, The rejection of Claims 2-4 should be withdrawn.

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Claims 6 and 11

Claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe in view of Gale et al. (US Patent #6,487,495). Amended Claim 1 has already been shown to be patentable over the prior art (e.g., Sutcliffe). Gale et al. fail to remedy the above-noted, multiple deficiencies of Sutcliffe. Thus, the foregoing rejection should be withdrawn.

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Claims 7-10

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe in view of Craport et al. (US Patent #5,978,747). Amended Claim 1 has already been shown to be patentable over the prior art (e.g., Sutcliffe). Craport et al. fail to remedy the above-noted, multiple deficiencies of Sutcliffe. Thus, the foregoing rejection should be withdrawn.

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Claims 13-16

Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe in view of Obradovich (US Patent #6,525,768). Amended Claim 1 has already been shown to be patentable over the prior art (e.g., Sutcliffe). Obradovich fails to remedy the above-noted, multiple deficiencies of Sutcliffe. Thus, the foregoing rejection should be withdrawn.

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Claim 12

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe in view of Obradovich, and further in view of Shug (US Patent #6,339,429). Amended Claim 1 has already been shown to be patentable over the prior art (e.g., Sutcliffe). As discussed above, Obradovich fails to remedy the above-noted, multiple deficiencies of Sutcliffe.

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Obradovich concerns the dimming of a display. Claim 12 has been amended to delete the term “dim,” used at Page 14, lines 10-12 of the present specification, and to replace that term with “obscure with predetermined accuracy.” In the context of the specification, the terms dim and the new language in Claim 12 will be seen interchangeable. In particular, a user may be able to cause his/her position to be shown to another user to a predetermined accuracy of 50 meters, for instance. This example is shown in present Fig. 9a.

Schug fails to remedy the deficiencies of Sutcliffe, and further fails to teach or suggest obscuring a user’s position to a predetermined accuracy as recited Claim 12.

Thus, the foregoing rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 17

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutcliffe in view of Rachabathuni et al. (US Patent #6.628,938). Amended Claim 1 has already been shown to be patentable over the prior art (e.g., Sutcliffe). Claim 17 has been amended to clarify the claim without narrowing it.

Rachabathuni et al. fails to remedy the above-noted, multiple deficiencies of Sutcliffe. Thus, the foregoing rejection should be withdrawn.

Ayed, US Patent # 6,756,913

The examiner cited Ayed, US Patent # 6,756,913 as being pertinent to Applicant’s disclosure. However, applicant points out, as follows, deficiencies of Ayed that preclude Ayed from teaching or suggesting the presently claimed invention.

Using Sensors to Signal Availability vs. Letting Taxi Driver Signal Availability

Ayed teaches “a method for sending notifications to server” where the mobile data terminal periodically senses if the meter of the taxi is active for customer service (Col. 6, lines 24-30, Figure 7).

Ayed suggests “periodically sensing if the meter on a taxi is active to determine if the taxi is available.” (Col 6, line 26-27). In order to do that Ayed’s invention needs an external sensor means” (Col 4, lines 31-35). In other embodiment Ayed suggests that

“input device is connected to a sensor that senses if client seats are occupied or not to determine if the taxi is available” (Col 6. Lines 6-9)

In FIG. 7 Ayed describes “a flowchart illustrating the steps involved in indicating that a taxi is available”. This is a three step method to determine availability. In step 112
 5 mobile data terminal checks if taxi-meter is on or is sensing the client seats are occupied (Col. 6, lines 1-9).

Ayed’s invention would fail to operate in combination with current taxi meters, or at least needs modifications to taxi meters to provide output for a mobile data terminal. In
 10 second embodiment Ayed’s invention would also need extensive modifications to wire the car seats with sensors providing information for the server dispatcher if there is anybody else except the driver sitting in the car or not. This would be awkward.

The claimed invention can replace Ayed’s three-step process of Fig. 7 of determining if the taxi is available with one step: “Turning the search on by using the
 15 client computer, driver sends availability message and all other information including ID and geographical position data to server”.

The claimed invention has omitted the need for expensive sensor elements, making a simpler without loss of capability, but rather greatly improving it. The claimed invention’s hardware and software can be adopted to service immediately in any car
 20 without connection or modifications to current taxi meters or other equipments.

Additionally, the claimed invention introduces a new principle of operation where a mobile taxi driver, for instance, determines whether to be available or not, independently of the taxi-meter meter or any other sensor element.

25 ***GSP signals to Street Address vs GSP Signals Showing Location on a Map***

Ayed also suggests that GSP position information which is received from customer would be translated to a street address by using database [database’s map information] (Col. 5, lines 25-27, Col 4. lines 49-51. Street address would be sent to taxi by the server. In order to determine a street address, GSP data is converted to map-
 30 coordinates and map coordinates are used to find a street address. Ayed does not suggest that client’s address would be shown on a map.

Therefore Ayed’s invention would be inoperable on a rural area where street addresses do not exist. However, the claimed invention would overcome this problem

and improve prior art by rather showing clients location on a map even if the location would not have a street address.

Server Allocating Clients vs Letting Driver Select

5 Ayed's invention present a server centric operations. Server allocates client to a taxi driver.

Server select suggestions based on the desired method which can be the nearest, first in line, within the range or fastest available taxi (Col. 5, lines 11-25).

However, this is not always desirable, since driver might have own preferences.
10 For example as a last fare on the way to the garage taxi driver wants a customer who is going to same direction. Making driver's decision easier, Applicant's Figure 13a shows driver customer's destination and quantity "Munkka 1" "Pasila 2" and "Punavuori 2" as additional information.

The claimed invention allocates the decision making to users. It is preferable that
15 after making the search, taxi driver picks the customer among available customers (Fig. 7) by making contact (Fig. 8a). Customer has given the final decision to confirm the deal directly with the driver by accepting (Fig. 8b) or canceling (Fig. 8c) drivers contact.

Letting users make the selections, not a taxi-meter or sensor in a car seat or server, enables the use of the present invention not only use dispatch taxi services, but trade with
20 variety of merchandise or service. Indeed it would be awkward having a server select and allocate user the "nearest", "first available" or "fastest available" date or for the most desperate "anybody within the range".

Dialog with Server vs. One-Step Order

25 In FIG. 6 boxes 90-102 Ayed describes a "flowchart illustrating the steps involved in logging a client request for a taxi". This complicated process with server for Ayed's invention needs seven steps to complete and takes client a lot of patience to communicate with server.

Present invention's flowchart would show only one box:

30 "Client Calls A Taxi Server Using A Handset Delivering Geographic location Information, Contact Means and other possible additional information".

Since client is contacting a taxi server, therefore it is obvious he is looking for taxi without server asking it. Client's telephone number for contact and possibly name is extracted from the telephone's ID string. Additional, user given information, might include destination and quantity of passengers. Geographic location information is provided from the handsets GSP circuit. Information is provided with oneway-action without long lasting dialog with the server.

For the foregoing reasons, Ayeed fails to detract from the patentability of the claimed invention.

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In view of the present amendments and the foregoing remarks, the present claims should be held patentable over the prior art and in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, an expeditious passage to issue of the present case is earnestly solicited.

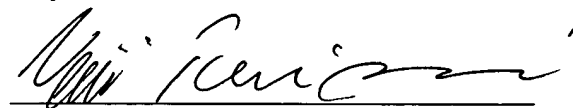
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May 16, 2005



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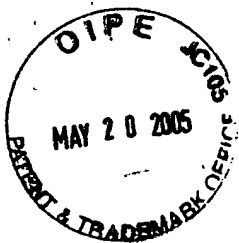


Fig. 14

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From Fig. 5a "Virtual Groups"

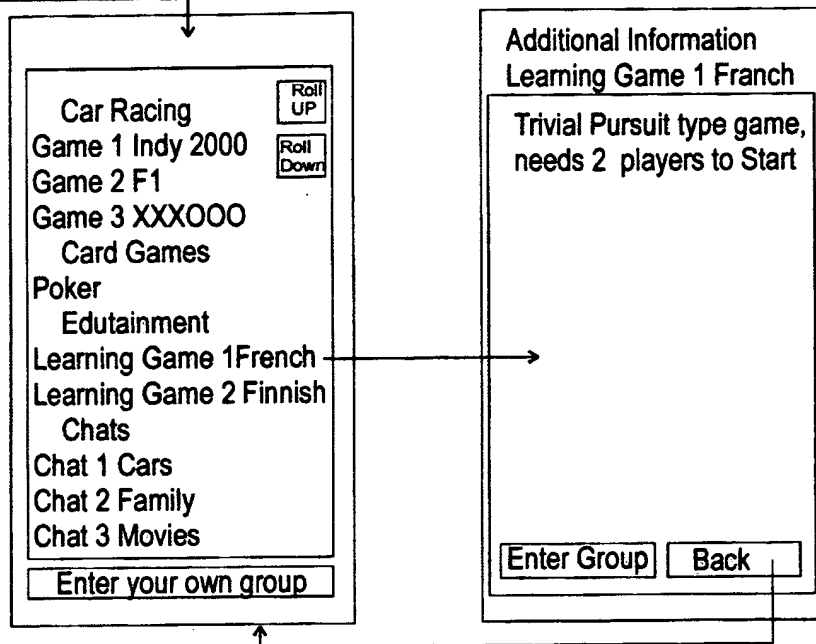


Fig. 15

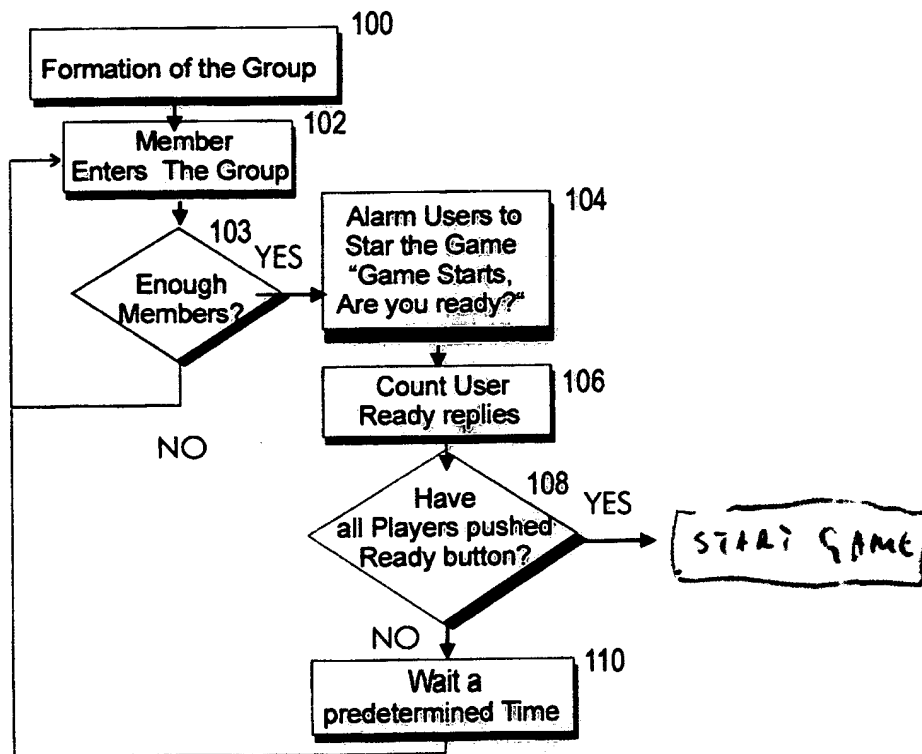
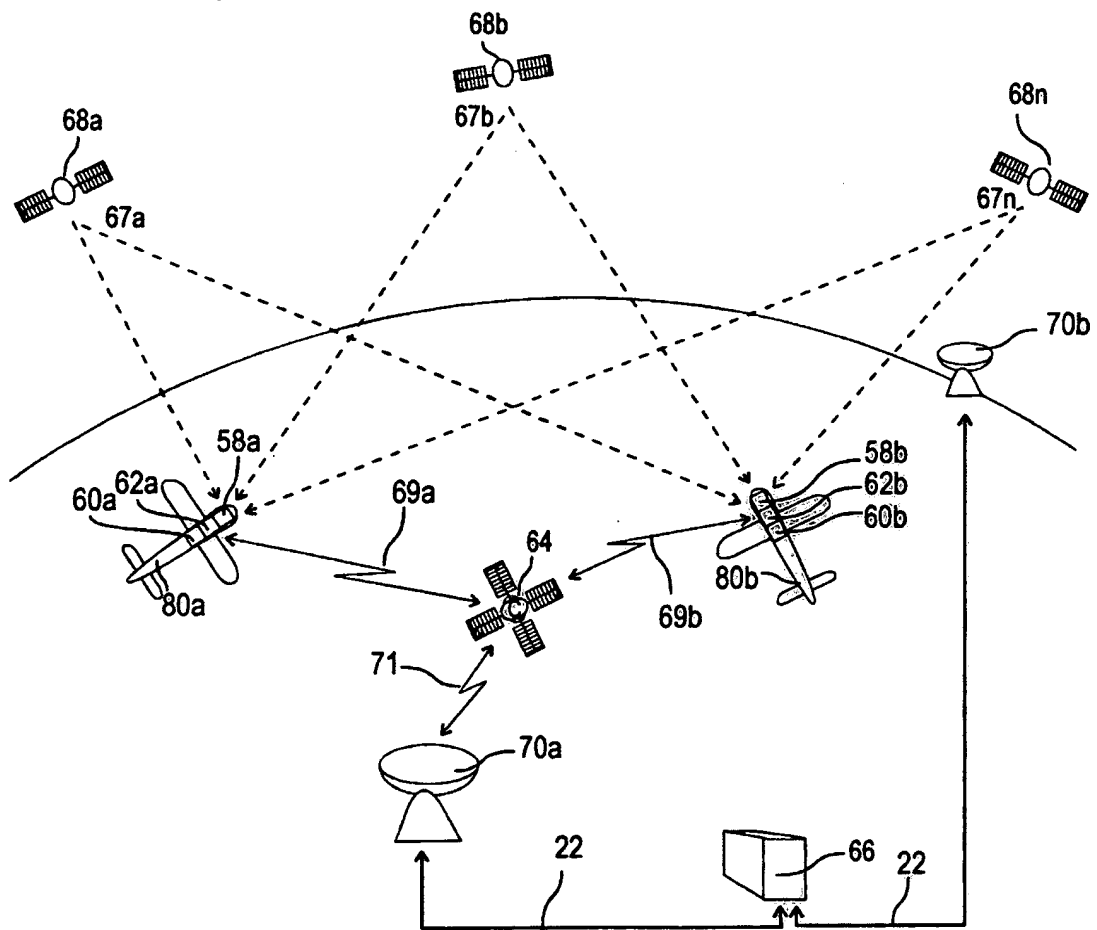


Fig. 10



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Fig. 11 17

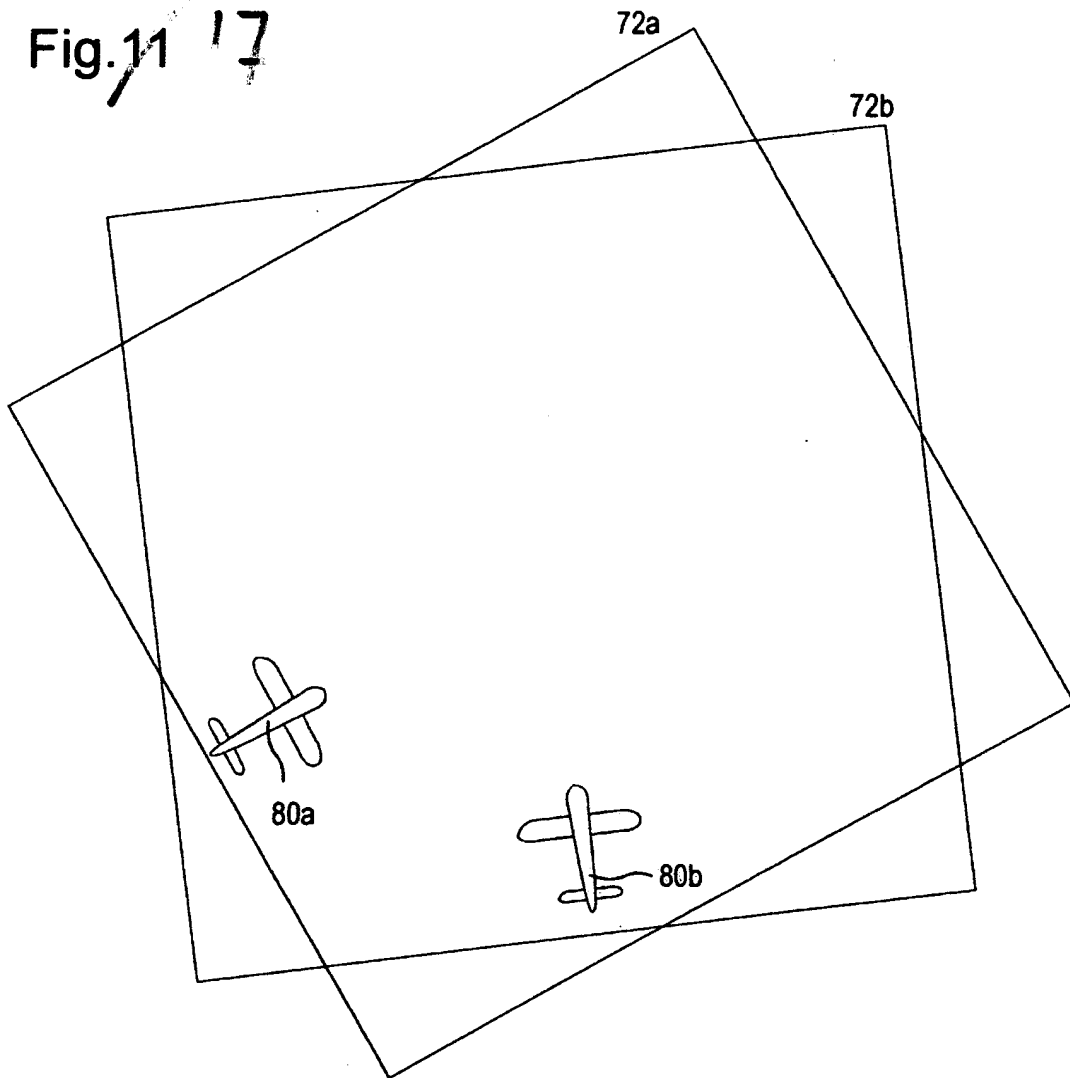


Fig. 12

